

concluding his introduction, "the physician should be both scientist and practitioner." This sentence epitomizes the spirit of Dr. Forchheimer's book, in which one recognizes the voice of a master in the art of therapeutics, who is quick to recognize and use every aid which science has to offer. This work admirably fulfils its aim in presenting to the practitioner a working system which he can apply in private practice, leaving the consideration of such measures as require hospital treatment to other works.

In this systematic consideration of internal diseases, prophylaxis receives the same broad treatment that is bestowed upon the curative measures. The important hygienic measures which apply to the prevention of specific diseases in the community are outlined, and the subject of personal prophylaxis is considered in some detail. That "to the bacterial cause (of disease) we must add the chemical, physical and biological causes" is not lost sight of in the treatment of this most important subject.

In describing the treatment of each disease, Dr. Forchheimer first outlines the method which has proved most serviceable in his own hands, and then describes other measures which may be found of value, giving considerable attention to measures other than drugs, such as diet, hydrotherapy, exercise, etc. Complications and sequelæ are fully considered, and the care of the patient during convalescence is most satisfactorily described—a subject which is largely neglected in the great majority of textbooks on medicine. The author has made free use of the best literature, particularly in reference to those subjects which are new or which are still under discussion.

The convenient arrangement and full index make this work a very handy reference book, and in referring to it the reader may feel that he is appealing to very high authority. We know of few books which will prove as valuable to the advanced student of medicine or the practitioner as "The Prophylaxis and Treatment of Internal Diseases."

HOWARD (New York).

EPILEPSY. William Aldren Turner, M.D., London, England. 267 pages. The Macmillan Company, Limited, London and New York.

"Epilepsy—a Study of the Idiopathic Disease," by Turner, is based largely on Dr. Turner's experience as physician to out-patients at the National Hospital for Paralyzed and Epileptic, and as visiting physician to the Colony for Epileptics at Chalfont, St. Peter's. It is divided into twelve chapters in addition to appendices and an index.

Chapter I. deals with a definition, general considerations, inheritance, conditions underlying convulsions, and speaks of epilepsy as "an organic disease." Turner's definition of epilepsy embraces ninety words and seems unnecessarily cumbersome and to contain features that have no place in what purports to be a definition only. Turner defines epilepsy as "A chronic, progressive disease of the brain characterized by periodic occurrence of seizures in which loss of consciousness is an essential feature, commonly associated with convulsions and frequently accompanied by psychical phenomena of a well defined type; occurring generally in persons with a hereditary neuropathic history which shows itself in signs or stigmata of degeneration; running its course uninterruptedly or with remissions over a number of years, and terminating either in a cure, in the establishment of the confirmed disease, in delusional insanity or in dementia." The last lines seem to encroach decidedly upon prognosis and to have no bearing upon definition.

Chapters II. and III. deal with the etiology of epilepsy, the general

prevalence of the disease, its relative frequency in the sexes, and the age at onset.

Chapters IV. and V. take up the clinical side of epileptic fits; and here Turner seems to follow Binswanger in the classification of types. Much may be noted in this chapter similar to the writings of Gowers.

Chapter VI. deals with the mental states found in epilepsy, the epileptic temperament, and the various psychoses that precede, accompany or follow epileptic convulsions.

Chapter VII. deals with the miscellaneous phenomena of epilepsy, including its neuropathic associations, such as paroxysmal headache, chorea, the ties, myoclonus epilepsy and chronic nervous diseases; accidents due to epileptic fits, conditions that have been fully described in other works on this disease.

Chapter VIII. deals with pathology. A careful study reveals nothing that is strikingly new; yet the chapter is well and conservatively written, and seems up to date in all respects. "Changes resulting from epileptic attacks" are found in this chapter. Turner states the brain of an epileptic is "unusually bulky, its convolutions simple and its membranes to the naked eye are clear and not apparently thickened; they are not adherent to the cortex and are congested only in cases which die in the status epilepticus." The statement that the brain of an epileptic is "unusually bulky" and its "convolutions simple" does not seem to us to be borne out by facts observed in dead-houses in this country, where hundreds of epileptic brains have been studied.

Chapter X. takes up the diagnosis of epileptic convulsions, points the way in which they are to be distinguished from hysterical fits, from epileptiform convulsions and from aural vertigo.

In Chapter XI., prognosis and curability are well discussed. It is evident that Turner takes a more generally optimistic view of the curability of epilepsy than do most neurologists in this country. He gives the percentage of cures at ten to twelve, and states that no case is to be regarded cured until the attacks have been arrested for at least nine years. Just why Turner fixes upon this seemingly arbitrary period of nine years we do not quite understand.

The last chapter deals with treatment, taking up the bromids, the methods of their administration, as well as numerous other remedies. Prophylaxis is not overlooked.

Appendix "A" deals with incidence and mortality of epilepsy among European troops, native troops and prisoners in India for the years 1899, 1900, 1901, 1902 and 1903. So far as we have the data are new and are of more than passing interest.

Appendix "B" gives a list of "quack remedies" for epilepsy. We have known for more than fifteen years that substantially all quack remedies advertised as sure cures for epilepsy contained the bromid of potassium in some form and variously disguised. The prescriptions given by Turner of quack remedies fully bear out this assumption.

Appendix "C" comprises a list of the common foodstuffs according to their purin value.

Appendix "D" deals with epileptic colonies, describing the essential features of such communities.

Altogether Turner has written a very excellent book on epilepsy, restricted as it is to the idiopathic disease, and the volume is a welcome addition to the increasingly frequent literature on epilepsy. It contains numerous charts and illustrations.

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